

Appln. No.: 10/522,044
Amendment Dated December 14, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of October 30, 2006

PC10483US

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace the original drawing figure with the corrected drawing sheet, now labeled Fig. 1.

Also, attached are new drawing sheets containing new Figs. 2 and 3, the addition of which is requested at this time.

Attachments

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 8-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled. In the final Office Action dated October 30, 2006, the drawing figure was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Claims 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 on the ground that the recited features, namely the end of the extension, was not clearly understood from the drawing. Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the ground that the claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,602,791 ("Zollner").

The October 30, 2006 final Office Action and reference cited therein have been carefully considered. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse the objections and rejections.

Drawings

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's clarification of the drawing objections and seek to clear up any misunderstanding. The final Office Action expresses some confusion about aperture 8, and characterizes the aperture as appearing "off-centered." The staggered appearance of aperture 8 would be understood by those skilled in the art of sealing collars to represent the location of an aperture behind the section at which the drawing is taken, understanding that sealing collars have a circular geometry. The circular nature of the collar is described throughout the specification. Nevertheless, the Office Action states that there are no corresponding figures to show what the broken out cross-section view represents.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants are providing Figs. 2 and 3, which provide additional views of the sealing collar of Fig. 1. Figure 3 shows the section from which the cross-sectional view of Fig. 1 is taken. Applicants note that the staggered effect shown in Fig. 1 is similarly present in Fig. 3. The features of Figs. 2 and 3 are supported in original Fig. 1 and the specification. Therefore, no new matter is added.

In response to the draftsman's objection, Applicants are also submitting a replacement drawing sheet to replace original Fig. 1. Applicants have removed the solid black shading in Fig. 1 and replaced it with cross-hatching.

Applicants have amended the specification to provide a description of the drawings, in accordance with guidelines for the format of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-14 have been cancelled without prejudice in favor of focusing prosecution on new claims 16-26.

Claim 15 is essentially unchanged, with the exception that the preamble has been amended to now recite a piston and cylinder unit, as opposed to just the sealing collar. With regard to original claim 15, the final Office Action indicates that it is unclear from Fig. 1 where the extension ends. Applicants respectfully submit that the drawing sheets submitted herewith should clarify any confusion regarding the aperture. Reconsideration of this rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

As noted above, claims 8-14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 15, which is essentially unchanged, was not rejected based on Zollner and therefore is presumed to be allowable over Zollner.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 16-26. Claims 16-23 are directed to a cylinder-and-piston unit comprising a cylinder, a piston and a sealing collar, the sealing collar being received in a groove that is recessed in an interior wall surface of the cylinder or in an exterior wall surface of the piston, the sealing collar comprising a first sealing lip and a second sealing lip, the first sealing lip being acted upon dynamically and making contact with the piston or the cylinder, respectively, and the second sealing lip thereof being acted upon statically while resting on a bottom of the groove, the first and second sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further comprising a circumferential extension that extends between the first and second sealing lips, and projects from the first and second sealing lips in an axial direction beyond the free ends of the first and second sealing lips, the sealing collar having a rear surface opposite the free ends of the first and second sealing lips, wherein the sealing collar has a maximum radial width at the free end of the second sealing lip and a minimum radial width at the rear surface. Support for new claims 16-23 is provided in the substitute specification, including but not limited to page 5, line 15 to page 6, line 26. No new matter has been added.

Claims 24-26 are directed to a cylinder-and-piston unit comprising a cylinder, a piston and a sealing collar, the sealing collar being received in a groove that is recessed in an interior wall surface of the cylinder or in an exterior wall surface of the piston, the sealing collar comprising an outside sealing lip and an inside sealing lip, the outside and inside sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further including a circumferential extension that extends generally parallel to the sealing lips, is arranged radially between the outside sealing lip and the inside sealing lip and has a free end that projects axially beyond the free ends of

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the outside and inside sealing lips, the circumferential extension engaging a sidewall in the groove and maintaining the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips out of contact with the sidewall. Support for new claims 16-23 is provided in the substitute specification, including but not limited to page 5, line 15 to page 6, line 26. No new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that new claims 16-26 are allowable over the cited references of record, as none show the features recited in new claims 16-26, including among other elements, a piston-and-cylinder unit with a recessed groove and a sealing collar received therein having first and second (or outside and inside) sealing lips and a circumferential extension that projects axially beyond the free ends of the lips.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in form for allowance. If the Examiner has any concern which precludes allowance at this time, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 610-407-0700 to discuss any such concern.

Respectfully submitted,



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RPS/CAR/dhm
Encls.: Replacement Drawing Sheets Figs. 1-3 (3 sheets)

Dated: December 14, 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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December 14, 2006

